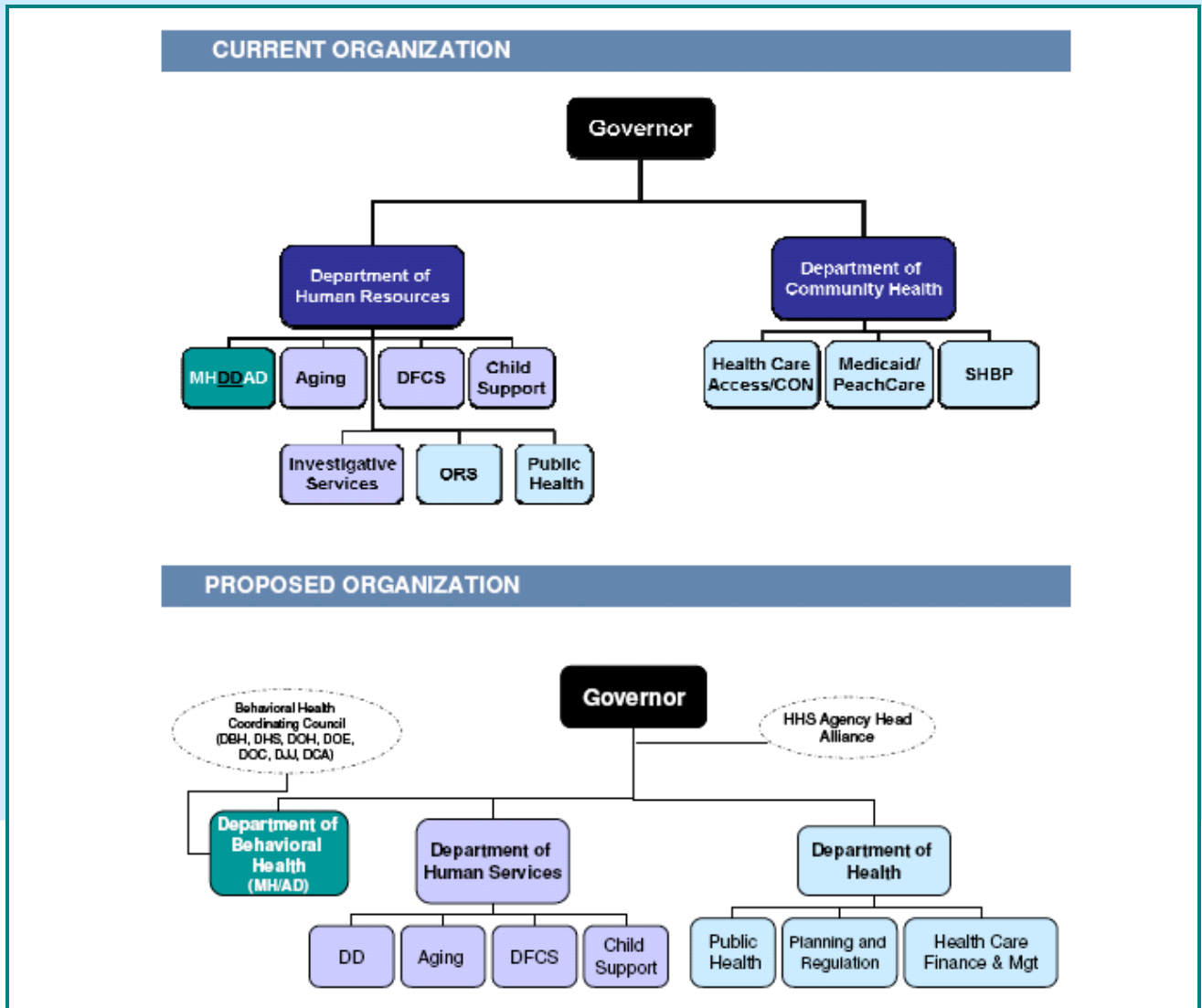


Becoming a Stronger DHR

B.J. Walker, Commissioner

Today, Governor Sonny Perdue released the Health and Human Services Task Force Restructuring Proposal which serves to establish the framework for more efficient delivery of services to our most vulnerable citizens. As part of the initial work of the Task Force, the members and their staff discussed many different organizational options and examined the advantages and risks of each idea. The following is a high-level version of the current and proposed health and human service organization in Georgia.

The Task Force has proposed to restructure health and human services (HHS) delivery in Georgia. This proposal directly impacts DHR. Below is an overview of their recommendations:



The proposed Health and Human Services organizational chart creates a new Department of Behavioral Health that combines programs from the Department of Community Health with Public Health and Regulatory programs DHR. This new structure will form the Department of Health. A coordinating council of state agencies and a Health and Human Services (HHS) Alliance are also proposed. The Behavioral Health Council and the HHS Alliance will be formed to address the need for better coordination of policy, funding, resources, and customer management across the spectrum of health and human services.



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What This Means for DHR

- DHR would become the Georgia Department of Human Services and remain under the leadership of current DHR Commissioner B.J. Walker.
- The newly formed Department of Human Services would include Developmental Disabilities, Family and Children Services, Aging Services and Child Support Services.
- Mental Health and Addictive Diseases would become a new department – The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health.
- The Division of Public Health and the Office of Regulatory Services would merge with the Georgia Department of Community Health to form a new department – The Georgia Department of Health.

Next Steps

The table below is the first step in the process of reorganizing the state's health and human services agencies. It shows tentative effective dates related to the major organizational changes proposed. Transition planning will better inform these dates over the coming months. The division of MHDDAD is proposed to be split up. Mental Health (MH) and Addictive Diseases (AD) will become the new Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). More analysis is needed to understand the impact and determine the best way to separate the Developmental Disabilities (DD) function out of the current MHDDAD division at DHR.

Organizational Change	Target Effective Start Date	Fiscal Year
Create Department of Health and move DCH, and Public Health and Regulatory Services	July 1, 2009	FY 2010
Move Mental Health and Addictive Diseases to new agency of Behavioral Health	July 1, 2009	FY 2010

Moving Forward

The Department of Human Resources has been organized as the state's premier health and human services agency for nearly four decades. As we adjust to meet today's needs of Georgia's booming population and the nation's economic uncertainties, please know that we will continue to serve the citizen's of Georgia through prevention, promoting home and community-based services, and encouraging work and self-sufficiency. Together, we will work to become Georgia's best-managed public agency. Remember, this is our agency, this is our legacy.

Sincerely,



BJ Walker